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## WASHINGTON TALK

# Briefing

### *New Man at Radio Liberty*

While most of the public attention in recent weeks has been focused on the Reagan Administration's plan to establish Radio Marti to broadcast to Cuba, some major personnel changes have been taking place within Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, the American radio voices aimed at the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The personnel move stirring the most comment is the appointment of George Bailey, a writer who has had associations with the Central Intelligence Agency, as director of Radio Liberty. His selection could revive concerns that the line between the radio operation and United States intelligence agencies is slowly being erased, if only in appearance. The two stations, which are based in Munich, were covertly financed by the C.I.A. until 1971, when Congress broke the connection and became responsible for their financial support.

Friends and associates of Mr. Bailey, however, say there is no evidence of his being involved in intelligence work since the early 1950's, and that any suggestion that he may be a C.I.A. plant at Radio Liberty is both unfair and unfounded.

Mr. Bailey served in American intelligence in World War II and later worked as an editor of *The Reporter*, a current affairs magazine that secretly accepted C.I.A. money for several years before it closed in 1968. More recently, he has contributed articles to *Kontinent*, a Paris-based magazine for Soviet dissidents. He was chosen for the Radio Liberty job by Frank Shakespeare, chairman of the Board for International Broadcasting, which is responsible for running the two radio stations.

Phil Gailey

Warren Weaver Jr.